

In response to the Office Action of November 15, 2006, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Staple for the suture of a sternum, including a central body (1) have at least two threaded parts (2,2') with opposite threads and at least two teeth (3,3'), each having a threaded end (4,4') able to engage one of the threaded parts of the central body, wherein each tooth has one leg (5,5'), having an axis forming an acute angle with the threaded end (4,4').

2. (Previously Presented) Staple as in claim 1 wherein said central body is a hollow cylinder and the two opposite threads are internal threads situated at the two ends of the central body.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) Staple as in claim 3 wherein said angle is between 70° and 85°.

5. (Previously Presented) Staple as in claim 3 wherein the edges of the tip (7) of each leg are rounded.

6. (Previously Presented) Staple as in claim 1 made of biocompatible and diamagnetic material.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) Staple according to claim [3] 1 wherein the legs of the teeth have a length of between 10 and 20 mm.

9. (Original) Punch cutter forceps able to pierce a sternum, including a first jaw (20) having a punching tip (15) having an axis (24), a second jaw (16), means (17, 18) able to move the tip, according to a rectilinear trajectory, closer to the second jaw, a portion (21) of surface of the second jaw forming an acute angle with the axis of the punching tip.

10. (Previously Presented) Forceps as in claim 9 wherein said angle is between 70° and 85°.

11. (Previously Presented) Forceps as in claim 9 or 10 wherein on the second jaw (16) there is a protuberance (23) facing the first jaw.

12. (Currently Amended) Surgical kit including: one or more staples for the suture of a sternum, said staples including a central body (1) having at least two threaded parts (2,2') with opposite threads and at least two teeth (3,3'), each having a threaded end (4,4') able to engage one of the threaded parts of the central body and one leg (5,5'), having an axis forming an acute angle with the threaded end (4,4'); and

-a apparatus equipped with clutch able to rotate the cylindrical body of a staple whose teeth are held in holes made in a bone, up to a preset tension of the staple.

13. (Original) Surgical kit as in claim 12 including one or more punch cutter forceps able to make holes, in a sternum, of diameter suitable for one or more staples included in the kit.

14. (Previously Presented) Surgical kit as in claim 13 including one or more punch cutter forceps, said forceps including a first jaw (20) having a punching tip (15) having an axis (24), a second jaw (16), means (17,18) able to move the tip, according to a rectilinear trajectory, closer to the second jaw, a portion (21) of surface of the second jaw forming an acute angle with the axis of the punching tip.